

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A pneumatic tire comprising a cylindrical crown portion, and a pair of sidewalls and a pair of bead portions, the sidewalls and the bead portions being continuous from both sides of the crown portion, in which a decorative portion, and protruding portions are arranged on at least one of the sidewalls,

wherein the decorative portion includes interconnected tops and bottoms, and the tops of the decorative portion protruding higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from a level of the sidewall on which the decorative portion is arranged,

wherein the protruding portions protrude higher than the tops of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from the sidewall, the protruding portions including at least one of a character and a mark, and

wherein a joined portions join portion joins one of the protruding portions to another of the and the decorative portion protruding portions, and bottoms of the joined portion portions are higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion.

2. (currently amended): The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the joined portion includes decorative portion includes a high decorative portion having interconnected tops and bottoms, the bottoms of the high decorative portion being higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from the sidewall, and the high decorative portion is joined to at least one of the joined portions.

3. (currently amended): A pneumatic tire comprising a cylindrical crown portion, and a pair of sidewalls and a pair of bead portions, the sidewalls and the bead portions being continuous from both sides of the crown portion, in which a decorative portion and protruding portions are arranged on at least one of the sidewalls,

wherein the decorative portion includes interconnected tops and bottoms, and the tops of the decorative portion protruding higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from a level of the sidewall on which the decorative portion is arranged,

wherein the protruding portions protrude higher than the tops of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from the sidewall, the protruding portions including at least one of a character and a mark, and

wherein a flat portion~~flat portions~~ higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from the sidewall continuously extends from one of the protruding portions to another of ~~are provided on bottoms between the protruding portions;~~

wherein each of the protruding portions forms a character, respectively, and the flat portion is formed between the characters.

4. (currently amended): The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein a ratio of a width of ~~each of the flat portion~~~~portions~~ is 40 to 70% with respect to a width between ends of top surfaces of the protruding portions.

5. (currently amended): The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein a corner region connecting the flat ~~portion~~portions and each protruding portion is formed of a round portion.

6. (original): The pneumatic tire according to claim 5, wherein the round portion has a radius of 0.2 to 1.0 mm.

7. (currently amended): The pneumatic tire according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein a height of the bottom of the joined portion ~~of any of the protruding portion and decorative portion~~ is set within a range of 30% to 70% with respect to a height to each top surface of the protruding portions.

8. (currently amended): A pneumatic tire comprising a cylindrical crown portion, and a pair of sidewalls and a pair of bead portions, the sidewalls and the bead portions being continuous from both side of the crown portion, in which a decorative portion and protruding portions are arranged on at least one of the sidewalls,

wherein the decorative portion includes interconnected tops and bottoms, and the tops of the decorative portion protruding higher than the bottoms of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from a level of the sidewall on which the decorative portion is arranged,

wherein the protruding portions protrude higher than the tops of the decorative portion with respect to a direction of protruding from the sidewall, the protruding portions including at least one of a character and a mark, and

wherein ~~a joined portion joins one of portions join~~ the protruding portions ~~to another of~~
~~the protruding portions~~, bottoms of the joined ~~portion~~ portions are higher than the bottoms of the
decorative portion ~~with respect to a direction of protruding from the sidewall~~, and tops of the
joined ~~portion~~ portions are lower than the protruding portions ~~with respect to a direction of~~
~~protruding from the sidewall~~.

9. (previously presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the
protruding portions comprise a group of letters.

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 3, wherein the
protruding portions comprise a group of letters.

12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): The pneumatic tire according to claim 8, wherein the
protruding portions comprise a group of letters.

14. (canceled).